



भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान तिरुचिरापल्ली
Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli
(An Autonomous Institute under Ministry of HRD, Government of India)
Tiruchirappalli - 620 024, Tamil Nadu, India

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Women's Day Celebration at IIM Trichy

IIM Trichy celebrated the International Women's Day by hosting a session on the theme '**Role of women in making India a \$5 trillion economy.**' The speakers for the session were **Ms. Jahanzeb Akhtar, Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, Chennai; Prof. Dr. V. S. Elizabeth, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu National Law University, Trichy and Mr. Natarajan, Station Director, All India Radio.**

The session began with the lighting of the lamp by Ms. Jahanzeb Akhtar, Prof. Dr. V. S. Elizabeth, Mr. Natarajan, Dr. Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM Trichy, and Prof. Vijaya. V, Member, Student affairs and Ms. Hema Sri, Women's Secretary. This was followed by an invocation song by Ms. Shabana.

Dr. Bhimaraya Metri welcomed the guest speakers and wished a very happy women's day to all the women present in the gathering. He congratulated everyone who contributed, especially the women counterparts for helping IIM Trichy achieve the Leadership & Innovation Award by the Higher Education Forum recently. He also proudly mentioned the fact that IIM Trichy has the highest number of female students in the current batch among the other IIMs. He motivated the female students in the gathering to take up leadership positions in the corporate world with examples of Indira Nooyi and Kiran Mazumdar Shaw.

Ms. Jahanzeb Akhtar wished all the women present in the event with a very impactful quote "The sky cannot be held up by only one half of the population." She drew an analogy from the movie 'Lion King' where the lioness fights for the kingdom's survival and inspired every woman to unleash the lioness in her. She spoke of the dropping of Female Labor Force Participation and the contribution of women to India's GDP at a mere 18%. She asked audience to ponder over the fact that the 'care economy' where the women are largely engaged in our country, if taken into account for the calculation of the GDP, would make India move closer to the \$5 trillion mark. She urged the young women students to value their feminine qualities and how these could indirectly help deal with issues of tax evasion and tax avoidance given that women have characteristics that make them think of family and community and hence be less corrupt. She concluded by encouraging the students to follow their hearts and to be fair.

Prof. Dr. V. S. Elizabeth gave an impactful speech on the role of women in the so-called man's world. She saluted every woman who makes it possible for us to live, breathe and survive. She also mentioned that this day should not be the only day when women are put on the pedestal while they are put down the rest of their lives. She quoted examples of many women workers who pioneered in their fields and urged society to take care of women who belong to all strata of society and want to contribute to the economy by creating appropriate opportunities for them. She advocated ending violence against women and insisted that it is high time that we start looking at the world through women's eyes.

Mr. Natarajan acknowledged this day of global importance and conveyed his gratitude to all women in his life who have made it possible for him to stand in front of the gathering today. He reiterated that a man, who respects his mother and sister, will respect every other woman. He spoke of all the sacrifices and hardships his mother went through and valued the deeds the women do to make a family stand tall. He ended on a note that to make our currency stronger, we should make India self-reliant and it is possible by bringing the women workforce to power.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Vijaya. She expressed her gratitude to the speakers for their extremely inspiring and soul-stirring speech and she thanked everyone who contributed to making this event a grand success. The session concluded with the national anthem.